

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4396

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic 400 West Saratoga Street

and/or common Select Union Service/Immigration Consultation

2. Location

street & number 400 W. Saratoga Street not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity of congressional district Seventh

state Maryland county Baltimore

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u>X</u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Union Properties

street & number 400 W. Saratoga Street

telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore state and zip code MD 21201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds Baltimore City Courthouse SEB1862

street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610 fol 468

city, town Baltimore state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. B-4396

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 1

This circa 1840-1850 painted brick building faces south on W. Saratoga Street and abuts a partywall building to the east and an alley inlet to the west. The three-bay, three-story building has a gable roof. The street frontage is 20' and the depth is 60'.

The first story was altered circa 1900. The entrance in the third bay was significantly enlarged. It consists of a large glazed door in wood surrounds, with a large transom above. The brick door jambs are molded, bullnose brick. The first and second bays were converted into a three-sided, bowed window. The base of the window is laid with black marbleized tile. The large plates of glass have both wood and metal mutins. The transoms above the bowed window are now blank. The entablature above the bowed window is topped by an arabesque pavilion metal roof.

The second and third stories have three 1/1 sash windows with brick splayed jack arches and stone sills.

The corbelled brick cornice has three rows of brickcourses. A pair of chimneys rise over the west end of the gable roof.

The first-story door opens into a foyer wainscotted with mottled green tiles. The floor is laid with blue and white hexagonal tiles and a green Greek key frieze. A door to the north leads to the stair hall. The stair runs straight up the west wall. The stair has a turned newel post. A door to the west leads to the commercial space on the first story. The front door and the two foyer doors are plate glass and are set into wood surrounds that have crosetted, dog-ear corners.

8. Significance

Survey No. B-4396

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____ unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The architectural design of this three-story, three-bay building is a good example of a circa 1850 commercial building. The first story would have been used for sales or display area and the upper stories could have been used as offices or as residential quarters. Architectural historian Richard Longstreth writes that "the gradual abandonment of the shop-house as the dominant form of commercial architecture was due to the ever-increasing demands for trade and professional services along with a corresponding increase in land values, all of which fostered the design of buildings used entirely for commercial purposes."¹ The architectural form of the building at mid-century, however, retained the domestic characteristics of earlier shop-houses. The two entrances within the vestibule indicate that the building was intended to house more than one tenant and that segregation of the street-level commercial shop and upper stories was desirable. In addition to the provision of separate entrances for separate tenants, the architectural details suggest an inexpensive building whose owner chose not to invest in costly facade details. The facade is trimmed with simple brick lintels and a relatively simple banded cornice, in keeping with spare, commercial style architecture of the period.

This building represents the small-scale speculative construction on the block, many two- and three-bay buildings line the street. The three-story height is typical for the area and the period.

The first story alterations date to the late nineteenth-century and, in small parts, to the twentieth. The combination cornice-stringcourse across the first story was a common Victorian device on shopfronts, as were the bowed, large plate glass windows and transoms. The tiled vestibule and doors also date to the second period of remodelling. The tiles below the replacement plate glass date to the post-World War Two period.

¹ Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street, pp. 24,29.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-4396

Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street (Washington: Preservation Press, 1987).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quad

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane Shaw, Architectural Historianorganization CHAP, Room 1037date December 21, 1991street & number 417 E. Fayette Streettelephone 301-396-4866city or town Baltimorestate MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-514-7600

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870
Modern Period, 1930-present, alteration

Historic Period Themes:
Architecture
Economics

Resource Type:
Building

Historic Environment:
Urban

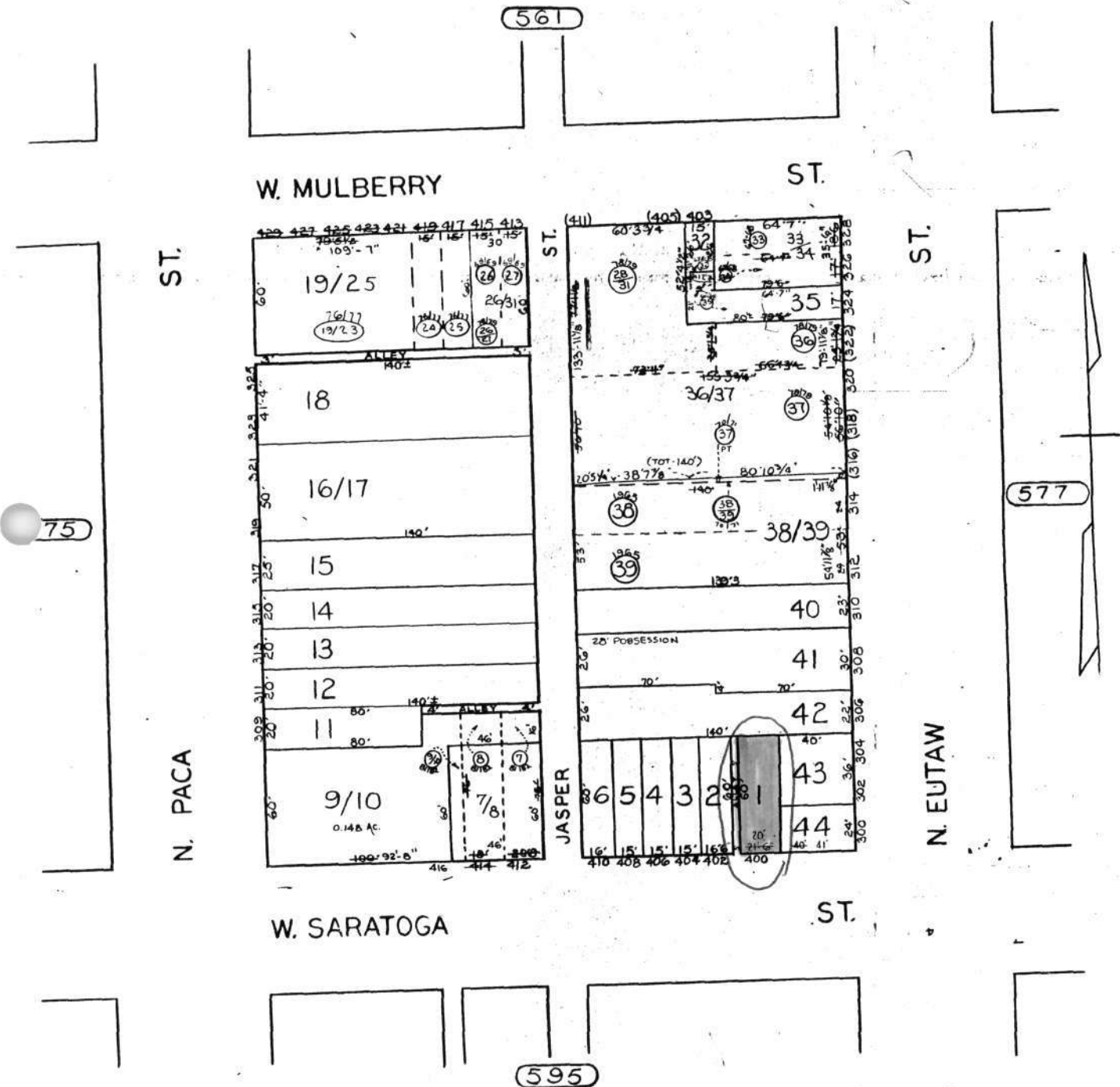
Historic Function and Use:

Commercial/Residential

Known Design Source:
None

REVISIONS

LOT 38/39 CONS'D PER APP. C. SH. 94-70
 LOTS 32, 34, 35 COR. PER DEED C. SH. 9830
 LOTS 33 & 34 CONS'D PER APP. C. SH. 9850
 LOTS 26 & 27 CONS'D PER APP. C. SH. 9976
 LOTS 27, 38/39 PER DEED C. SH. 242
 LOTS 1 & 44 PER DEED C. SH. 409
 19/23 PER APP. C. SH. 77-002
 26/27, 28/31, 36 & 37 PER APP. C. SH. 79-027
 1/8, 9/16 PER. DEED C. SH. 82-227



NOTICE

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED
 FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(d) OF THE CITY CHARTER
 IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER
 SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

CITY OF BALTIMORE
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION

WARD 4 SECTION 3

BLOCK 576

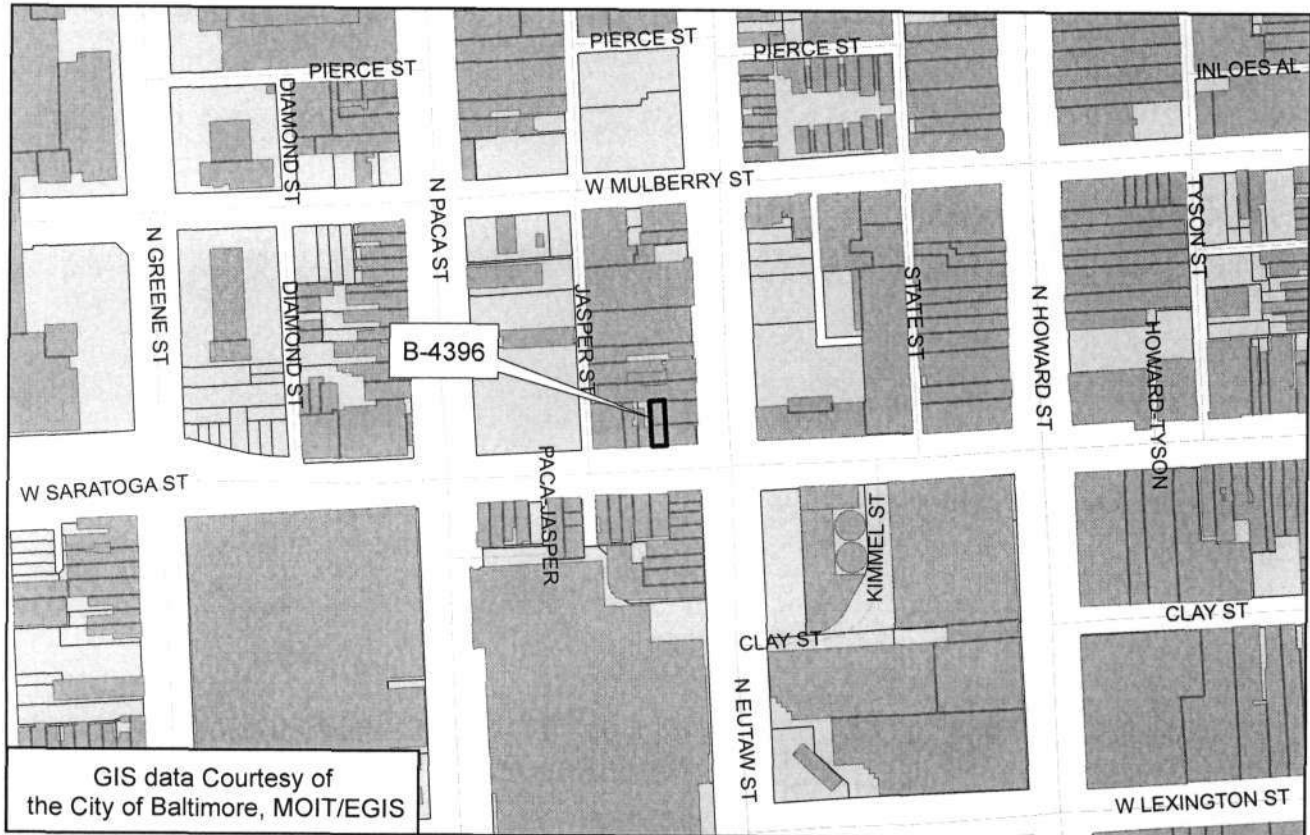
SCALE 1"=50'

DATE NOV 1966

CEDED BY P.L.W.

TERED BY P.L.W.

B-4396
Select Union Service/Immigration Consultation
400 W. Saratoga Street
Block 0576 Lot 001
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad





B-4396

400 W. Saratoga St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade, south elevation

V1